Aerodrome Directorate of Inspection

2916. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aerodrome Directorate of Inspection is a flight safety requirement to monitor standards;

(b) whether this Directorate was sanctioned in 1993, but has not yet been commissioined;

(c) whether the services of personnel posted against the vacancies of this Directorate are being utililsed elsewhere; and

(d) if so, who is responsible for this lapse and what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Nine posts for Aerodrome Standards Directorate in the Directorate General of Civil Aviatioin were sanctioned in August, 1993. These posts could not be filled up because of the time taken to finalise the Recruitment Rules in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Ministry of Law. The Recruitment Rules have since been notified. Three Deputy Directors and two Assistant Directors (ADs) have been appointed in consultation with the UPSC. Two more ADs are expected to join shortly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Losses to IA on Customer billing and Mail Service

2917. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that billing customers rupee tariffs for dollars and under-charging postal department for the mail carried causing substantial losses to the Indian Airlines has been detected recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the estimated annual loss suffered by the Airlines as a result thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b)and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Dollar Based fares by Domestic air lines

2918. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic airlines have made proposals to raise their dollar based fares, in the context of the devaluation of the rupee, raising their input costs sharply;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Landing problem at IGI Airport due to Non-Functional Radar

2919. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a non-functional radar at Indira Gandhi International Airport had been causing constant landing problems to aircrafts both national and international during the month of January this year; and

(b) if so, when and through whom this radar was installed and how long after it has developed problems; and the nature and extent of damage caused thereby, by

way of delayed landings and off-take, wastage of fuel and risk to passengers etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The radar installed at IGI airport was unserviceable from 0005 hours on 25th January to 1855 hours on 29th January, 1998. This radar of Telefunken make was installed on 19th January, 1973. Since the radar is more than 20 years old, sometimes problems occur in its working. Flights are delayed marginally in the absence of the radar, but safety of aircraft or passenger is not compromised.

Introducing more flights from Hyderabad

2920. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more flights from Hyderabad to various places in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Hyderabad is, at present, directly connected to Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Vizag and Tirupati by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air/ Jet Airways flights. Additional connections can be considered by the airline operators who are free to operate air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

Concession in air Fares to senior Citizens

2921. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines gives concessions in air fare to citizens above 70 years of age;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to reduce the age to 65 years and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines offers 50% discount to all Senior Citizens who have completed 65 years of age and are residents of India. The discount is available for travel in Economy Class on domestic sectors of the Indian Airlines.

Upgradation of Agartala Airport

2922. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government had decided to upgrade the Agartala Airport for landing of larger aircraft and also providing night landing facilities;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) by when Government propose to complete the work of upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Airport Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken expansion and modification of terminal building at Agartala airport at a cost of Rs. 16.24 crores. This work is likely to be completed by December, 1999. Night landing facilities at Agartala airport are already available. AAI also has plans to extend the runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. Land is being acquired by the State Government for this purpose.

Upgradation of Nagpur Airport

2923. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation and upgradation work of Nagpur Airport in Maharashtra has been completed;